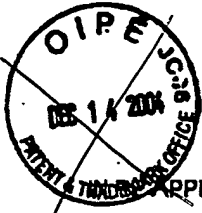


**PATENT**



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICATION OF:

**Reyes, et al.**

APPLICATION No.: 09/851,410

FILED: May 7, 2001

FOR: ENTERICALLY TRANSMITTED NON-A/NON-B  
HEPATITIS VIRAL AGENT AND  
CHARACTERISTIC EPITOPES THEREOF

EXAMINER: Mosher, Mary

ART UNIT: 1648

CONF. No: 2902

**Amendment in Response to Office Action**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the outstanding final Office Action dated October 15, 2004 ("Office Action") in the captioned matter, and pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks. Applicants believe that entry of the Amendment will put the application in condition for immediate allowance or in better condition for appeal.

A listing of claims begins on page 2.